



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

02nd February 2023

PQ Number: PQ 4677/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who were admitted to adult mental health facilities per month in 2022, per CHO, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, there are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information on Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

The table below provides the details on the number of Child Admissions to Adult Units for 2022.



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Month	No. of Admissions	CHO Area
January:	0	
February:	0	
March:	0	
April:	< 5	CHO 9, CHO 4
May:	< 5	CHO 3, CHO 1, CHO 9
June:	< 5	CHO 3, CHO 9, CHO 5
July:	< 5	CHO 9, CHO 1
August:	< 5	CHO 1, CHO 9
September:	< 5	CHO 9
October:	< 5	CHO 3, CHO 5
November:	0	
December:	0	
Total Admissions:	20	

Please Note:

Given the low numbers for each month (where the value is <5) and in line with Sections 2 and 37[1] of the FOI Act 2014, I have decided to deny access to the exact figures for reasons of patient confidentiality as any breakdown of numbers (where the value is <5), could inadvertently lead to the identification of individuals.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services